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 ZNY CCCCC ZUC STATE ZZH
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 DE RUEHDM #0311 0151353
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH ZZK
 U 151349Z JAN 82 ZFF-4 RUQMBI/RUQMOD/RUQMAM ONLY
 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
 TO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE 0915
 RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 7185
 RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 9764
 RUQMOD/AMEMBASSY DOHA NIACT IMMEDIATE 0480
 RUQMKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 2641
 RUQMAM/AMEMBASSY MANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE 0569
 INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4780
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 00311

EXDIS

AMMAN FOR VELIUTES

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/15/88 (PAGANELLI, ROBERT P.) OR-M
 TAGS: UREP (PERCY, CHARLES H.), SY
 SUBJ: CODEL PERCY: VISIT TO DAMASCUS

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 287, (B) BEIRUT 302, (C) ABU DHABI 159

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ON MORNING JANUARY 15, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT IS
 CLOSED FOR FRIDAY HOLIDAY, WE INFORMALLY ADVISED SYRIAN
 FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS GABBANI
 OF SENATOR PERCY'S POSSIBLE VISIT AND MADE REQUEST

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FOR SENATOR TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. WE TOLD GABBANI THAT SENATOR'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WOULD BRING HIM TO DAMASCUS LATE EVENING JANUARY 18 AND THEREFORE HE WOULD WISH TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SOME TIME ON MORNING OF JANUARY 19 BEFORE TRAVELING ON TO BEIRUT. GABBANI RECALLED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM HAD INVITED THE SENATOR TO VISIT DAMASCUS WHEN TWO HAD MET DURING UNGA IN OCTOBER AND SAID HE WOULD GET TO WORK ON ARRANGEMENTS AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JANUARY 16. HE ASKED IF SENATOR COULD STAY LONGER AND REMINDED US THAT PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT MIGHT NOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL LAST MINUTE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS TODAY, JANUARY 15, AND IF HE IS IN TOWN SYRIANS WILL ARRANGE SENATOR'S SCHEDULE SO THAT HE CALLS ON KHADDAM BEFORE HE SEES ASSAD. THIS IS MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SCHEDULE TO SARG.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT SENATOR MUST PLAN TO SPEND BETTER PART OF THE DAY JANUARY 19 IN DAMASCUS IF HE WISHES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES HERE. WE REALIZE THIS COULD CONFLICT WITH AMBASSADOR DILLON'S PLANNED LUNCH.

5. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE ARE PLANNING THAT SENATOR AND PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS LATE EVENING JANUARY 18. SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY INVITED BY AMBASSADOR TO STAY AT RESIDENCE. WE BOOKING ROOMS FOR REMAINDER OF PARTY AT DAMASCUS SHERATON. IF THIS ITINERARY IS NOT REPEAT NOT CORRECT, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. PAGANELLI

END OF MESSAGE

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